

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

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Claim 1. (original) A power status notification device (PSND) for reporting the status of power supplied through an electric outlet, the device comprising:

a power status component capable of detecting a change in the status of the power supplied through an electric outlet;

a power supply component that receives power from the electric outlet and also from a telephone line;

a power supply monitor component for detecting a change in the amount of power in the power status notification device power supply;

a memory component for storing programmable and reprogrammable information;

a signal transmission component for transmitting a signal to an integrated voice response system (IVR); and

a signal receiving component for receiving a signal from an IVR.

Claim 2. (original) The PSND of claim 1, further comprising a microcontroller.

Claim 3. (original) The PSND of claim 2, wherein the microcontroller comprises a microprocessor.

Claim 4. (original) The PSND of claim 1, wherein the power supply component comprises a capacitor.

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Claim 5. (original) The PSND of claim 1, wherein the power supply monitor component comprises a reset chip.

Claim 6. (original) The PSND of claim 1, wherein the memory component comprises an electronic erasable programmable read only memory chip (EEPROM).

Claim 7. (original) The PSND of claim 1, wherein the memory component stores programmable information comprising a response time T.

Claim 8. (original) The PSND of claim 1, wherein the memory component comprises identification (ID) data.

Claim 9. (original) The PSND of claim 8, wherein the ID data comprises an identification number unique to the power status notification device.

Claim 10. (original) The PSND of claim 1, wherein the memory component comprises a phone number associated with the IVR.

Claim 11. (original) The PSND of claim 1, wherein the memory component comprises a call attempt limit.

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Claim 12. (original) The PSND of claim 1, wherein the memory component comprises location information relating to the whereabouts of the power status notification device.

Claim 13. (original) The PSND of claim 12, wherein location information comprises the address of the premises where the power status notification device is installed.

Claim 14. (original) The PSND of claim 1, wherein the memory component comprises a heartbeat time.

Claim 15. (original) A system for reporting the status of power supplied through an electric outlet, the system comprising:

a power status notification device (PSND);

a telecommunications network; and

an integrated voice response system (IVR), wherein the PSND monitors the status of the power supplied through the electric outlet and communicates the status of the power supplied to the IVR via the telecommunications network.

Claim 16. (original) The system of claim 15 wherein the telecommunications network comprises a telephone network.

Claim 17. (original) The system of claim 15, further comprising a remote terminal for programming the PSND.

Claim 18. (original) The system of claim 17, wherein the remote terminal comprises a computer.

Claim 19. (original) The system of claim 17, wherein the remote terminal comprises a laptop computer.

Claim 20. (original) The system of claim 15, further comprising a reporting device for generating a power status report.

Claim 21. (original) The system of claim 20, wherein the reporting device comprises a telecommunications device.

Claim 22. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein the telecommunications device comprises a pager.

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Claim 23. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein the telecommunications device comprises a cellular phone.

Claim 24. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein the telecommunications device comprises a voice mail system and the notification report comprises a voice mail message.

Claim 25. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein the telecommunications device comprises a fax machine.

Claim 26. (original) The system of claim 20, wherein the reporting device comprises a printer.

Claim 27. (original) The system of claim 20, wherein the reporting device comprises a monitor.

Claim 28. (original) A power status notification device (PSND) for reporting the status of power supplied through an electric outlet, the device comprising:

a power status component, wherein the power status component detects a change in the status of the power supplied through an electric outlet;

a capacitor, wherein the capacitor receives power from the electric outlet and also from a telephone line;

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a reset chip, wherein the reset chip detects a change in the amount of power in the power status notification device power supply;

a DTMF Out component, wherein the DTMF Out component transmits DTMF tones;

a DTMF In component, wherein the DTMF In component receives DTMF tones;
and

an electronic erasable programmable memory component (EEPROM), wherein the EEPROM stores programmable information comprising:

a customer ID number,

a response time T,

a phone number associated with an IVR, and

a call attempt limit, wherein the programmable information may be entered into the EEPROM using a remote terminal.

Claim 29. (original) A method for reporting a change in the power status of power supplied through an electric outlet, the method comprising:

detecting the change in the power status of the power supplied through the electric outlet;

placing a call to an integrated voice response system (IVR) using a telecommunications network; and

transmitting power status notification information to the IVR.

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Claim 30. (original) The method of claim 29, wherein transmitting the power status notification information comprises:

transmitting an identifying signal to the IVR, wherein the identifying signal is recognizable as being transmitted by a power status notification device; and

in response to a receipt of an acknowledgement signal, transmitting power status notification information to the IVR.

Claim 31. (original) The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of generating a report containing the power status notification information using a reporting device.

Claim 32. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein the change in the power status comprises an electric power outage.

Claim 33. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein the change in the power status comprises an electric power restoration.

Claim 34. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein the telecommunications network comprises a telephone network.

Claim 35. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein the power status notification information comprises identification (ID) data.

Claim 36. (original) The method of claim 35, wherein the identification data comprises an identification number unique to the power status notification device.


Claim 37. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein the power status notification information comprises a power status indicator.

Claim 38. (original) The method of claim 37, wherein the power status indicator comprises a "0" tone.

Claim 39. (original) The method of claim 37, wherein the power status indicator comprises a "1" tone.

Claim 40. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein the power status notification information comprises location information relating to the whereabouts of the power status notification device.

Claim 41. (original) The method of claim 40, wherein location information comprises the address of the premises where the power status notification device is installed.

 Claim 42. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein the identifying signal comprises a DTMF tone.

Claim 43. (original) The method of claim 42, wherein the DTMF tone comprises a sinc pulse.

Claim 44. (original) The method of claim 43, wherein the sinc pulse comprises an A tone.

Claim 45. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein the acknowledgement signal comprises a DTMF tone.

Claim 46. (original) The method of claim 45, wherein the DTMF tone comprises a “#” tone.

Claim 47. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein the reporting device comprises a telecommunications device.

Claim 48. (original) The method of claim 47, wherein the telecommunications device comprises a pager and the report comprises a page.

Claim 49. (original) The method of claim 47, wherein the telecommunications device comprises a cellular phone and the report comprises a voice message.

Claim 50. (original) The method of claim 47, wherein the telecommunications device comprises a voice mail system and the report comprises a voice mail message.


Claim 51. (original) The method of claim 47, wherein the telecommunications device comprises a fax machine and the report comprises a fax.

Claim 52. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein the reporting device comprises a printer and the report comprises a print-out.

Claim 53. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein the reporting device comprises a monitor, and the method of claim 31 further comprises generating a user interface on the screen of the monitor, wherein the user interface displays power status notification information.

Claim 54. (original) The method of claim 53, wherein the IVR is at a location remote from the electric utility, and wherein the user interface comprises a World Wide Web browser.

Claim 55. (original) The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of:

 prior to placing a call to an integrated voice response system (IVR) using a telecommunications network, waiting a response time T.

Claim 56. (original) The method of claim 55, wherein the response time T is programmable and reprogrammable.

Claim 57. (original) The method of claim 55, wherein the response time T comprises a time in a range from about 10 seconds to about 4:45 seconds.

Claim 58. (original) A method for reporting a change in the power status of power supplied through an electric outlet, the method comprising:

detecting the change in the power status of the power supplied through the electric outlet;

placing a call to an integrated voice response system (IVR) using a telephone network;

transmitting an identifying signal to the IVR, wherein the identifying signal is recognizable as being transmitted by a power status notification device;


in response to a receipt of an acknowledgement signal, transmitting power status notification information to the IVR; and

using the power status notification information transmitted, generating a report containing the power status notification information using a reporting device.

Claim 59. (original) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for performing a method for reporting the status of power supplied through an electric outlet, the method comprising:

in response to the detection of a change in the power status of the power supplied through the electric outlet, placing a call to an integrated voice response system (IVR) using a telecommunications network; and

transmitting power status notification information to the IVR.

 Claim 60. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the power status notification information comprises:

transmitting an identifying signal to the IVR, wherein the identifying signal is recognizable as being transmitted by a power status notification device; and

in response to a receipt of an acknowledgement signal, transmitting power status notification information to the IVR.


Claim 61. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 60, wherein the change in the power status comprises an electric power outage.

Claim 62. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 60, wherein the change in the power status comprises an electric power restoration.

Claim 63. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 60, wherein the telecommunications network comprises a telephone network.

Claim 64. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 60, wherein the power status notification information comprises identification (ID) data.

Claim 65. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 60, wherein the ID data comprises an identification number unique to the power status notification device.



Claim 66. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 60, wherein the power status notification information comprises a power status indicator.


Claim 67. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 66, wherein the power status indicator comprises a "0" tone.

Claim 68. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 66, wherein the power status indicator comprises a "1" tone.

Claim 69. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 60, wherein the power status notification information comprises location information relating to the whereabouts of the power status notification device.

Claim 70. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 69, wherein location information comprises the address of the premises where the power status notification device is installed.

Claim 71. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 60, wherein the identifying signal comprises a DTMF tone.

 Claim 72. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 71, wherein the DTMF tone comprises a sinc pulse.

Claim 73. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 72, wherein the sinc pulse comprises an A tone.

Claim 74. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 60, wherein the acknowledgement signal comprises a DTMF tone.

Claim 75. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 74, wherein the DTMF tone comprises a “#” tone.

Claim 76. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 60, wherein the IVR is at a location remote to the electric utility.

Claim 77. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 60, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

prior to placing a call to an integrated voice response system (IVR) using a telecommunications network, waiting a response time T.

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Claim 78. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 77, wherein the response time T is programmable and reprogrammable.

Claim 79. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 77, wherein the response time T comprises a time in a range from about 10 seconds to about 4:45 seconds.

Claim 80. (original) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

in response to the detection of a change in the power status of the power supplied through the electric outlet, placing a call to an integrated voice response system (IVR) using a telecommunications network;

transmitting an identifying signal to the IVR, wherein the identifying signal is recognizable as being transmitted by a power status notification device; and

in response to a receipt of an acknowledgement signal, transmitting power status notification information to the IVR.

Claims 81 – 91 (Cancelled).